

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 10, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McMILLAN, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany amendment to H. R. 5210.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Elkins to the bill (H. R. 5210) making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, and for other purposes, make a favorable report thereon for the reasons set forth in the following communication from the District Commissioners.

OFFICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, April 2, 1896.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners recommend favorable action on the "Amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Elkins to the bill (H. R. 5210) making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and for other purposes," which was referred to them at your instance for examination and report. They transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the superintendent of the street and alley-cleaning department favoring the amendment.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. ROSS,
President Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

Senator JAMES McMILLAN,
Chairman Committee on District of Columbia, United States Senate.

STREET AND ALLEY CLEANING DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, April 2, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge for report, amendment to House bill No. 5210, making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, same having been offered by Mr. Elkins in the Senate March 16, 1896, and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

The amendment proposes that on page 15, line 7, of said appropriation bill, after the word "dollars" insert the following. (See amendment as printed.) The amendment proposes that the employees of the street and alley cleaning service of the District of Columbia as designated, who are now paid as per diem employees, be paid annual salaries and placed upon the permanent roll at the rates stated therein.

The proposed change in the manner of paying the employees of this service is a just and proper one. The change creates no new offices, the employees referred to are permanent, though carried and paid as per diem men. If there are any annual workers in the District government service, those employed in this service certainly are; the very nature of their work requires it of them. If the weather permits the work of cleaning the streets, etc., goes on daily. Out of the three hundred and thirteen working days of the year but three days are recognized as holidays, and they only for the reason that the laborers employed by the contractors will not work. The days referred

to are Decoration day, Fourth of July, and Christmas. It would seem then that such a class of employees should be made annual and paid as such in order that they may be placed upon an equal footing with the other employees and become entitled to the thirty days' leave and such sick leave as may be necessary and lawful. I therefore earnestly hope that the proposed amendment may meet with your full and unqualified approval, and that you will recommend the same to the favorable consideration of the honorable Committee on the District of Columbia for their approval and adoption in order that it may become a part of the appropriation bill for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1897.

Very respectfully,

A. G. MCKENSIE, *Superintendent.*

Hon. J. W. ROSS,

President Board Commissioners District of Columbia.

